

Judith C. Gasson, Ph.D.



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University of California Los Angeles

Professor of Medicine and Biological Chemistry Director, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center President, Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation Senior Associate Dean for Research David Geffen School of Medicine

An executive officer from a UC

Appointed by UC Chancellor

Judith Gasson, Ph.D., became the director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) on Sept. 15, 1995. She is a molecular biologist and is responsible for one of only 41 institutions designated as comprehensive cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute.

Gasson earned her doctorate degree in physiology at the University of Colorado in 1979. She did her postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA, studying glucocorticoid hormones, which are made by the adrenal gland in response to stress. In 1983, she left the Salk Institute to join UCLA. She is currently Professor of Medicine (Hematology-Oncology) and Biological Chemistry.

Gasson was instrumental in purifying for the first time a hormone-like substance that increases the speed of bone marrow cell reproduction. That substance, called GM-CSF, is used to help prevent infections in cancer patients and to allow those patients to tolerate more chemotherapy and radiation than had previously been possible.

For the past seventeen years, Dr. Gasson has been the director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC), among the nation's top 10, according to U.S. News & World Report. Under her leadership, the JCCC has become a recognized international pioneer in "translating" laboratory discoveries into more effective new therapies for cancer patients everywhere. She has also served as the President of the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation.

On September 17, 2012 she was appointed Senior Associate Dean for Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine.